

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ A process for the preparation of a primary amine ~~amine~~ of formula (I):

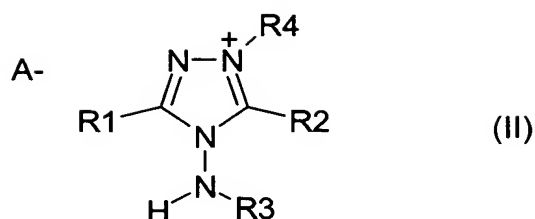


~~in which~~ wherein

~~R3 represents~~ is

- a linear or branched alkyl group including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms ~~which is~~ optionally substituted by one or more hydroxyl groups, amino groups, alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or aryl groups including from 6 to 10 carbon atoms, the aryl groups optionally being substituted by one or more linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or by one or more phenyl groups,
- a cycloalkyl group including from 5 to 7 carbon atoms ~~which is~~ optionally substituted by one or more linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms ~~by or~~ or by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
- an aralkyl group including from 7 to 16 carbon atoms ~~which is~~ optionally substituted by one or more linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or by one or more phenyl groups,

~~by reaction of~~ comprising the step of reacting a triazolium salt of formula (II):



~~in which~~wherein

R1 and R2, ~~which are identical or different, represent~~and are

- hydrogen,
- a linear or branched alkyl group including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms ~~which is~~ optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, $-(OCH_2CH_2O)_nR'''$ groups ~~in which n represents wherein n is an integer~~ ranging from 1 to 4 and R''' is a linear or branched alkyl group including from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, -O-aryl groups including from 6 to 10 carbon atoms ~~which is~~ optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups, or -O-aralkyl groups including from 7 to 16 carbon atoms ~~which is~~ optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups;
- an aralkyl group including from 7 to 16 carbon atoms ~~which is~~ optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups;
- an aryl group including from 6 to 10 carbon atoms ~~which is~~ optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups,

~~R3 has the meaning already indicated,~~

R4 ~~represents~~ is

- a linear or branched alkyl group including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms ~~which is~~ optionally substituted by a -COOH radical or a -COOR''' group in which R''' represents a linear or branched alkyl radical including from 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

- an alkyl group including from 7 to 16 carbon atoms ~~which is optionally~~ substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, ~~a~~ or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, ~~or a~~ -COOH radical or a -COOR''' group ~~in which~~ wherein R''' represents a linear or branched alkyl radical including from 1 to 4 carbon atoms,
- a residue of an organic polymer functionalized by an alkylating group,

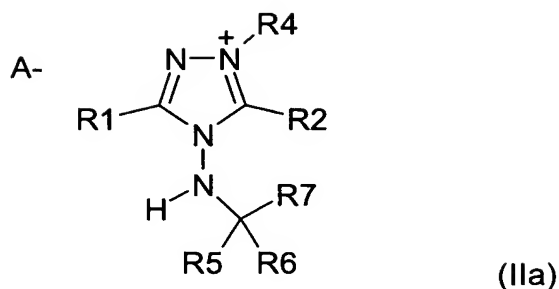
A represents is

- a halogen,
- an alkylsulphonate group including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms ~~which is~~ optionally substituted by one or more halogen groups,
- an arylsulphonate group including from 6 to 10 carbon atoms ~~which is~~ optionally substituted by one or more halogen groups or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 4 carbon atoms,
- an alkyl sulphate group including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
- a hydrogen sulphate group,
- a hemisulphate group,
- a perchlorate group, or
- a hydroxide group,

with a hydride, to obtain the amine of formula (I) ~~, which is isolated, if desired.~~

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the R3 group comprises an asymmetric carbon α to the nitrogen.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 1, ~~wherein or~~ 2, characterized in that the triazolium salt of formula (II) ~~corresponds to~~ is of the formula (IIa):



~~in which~~wherein

~~R1, R2, R4 and A have the meaning already indicated and~~

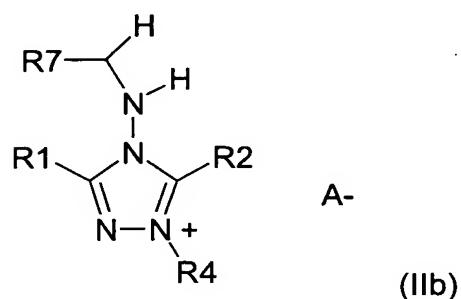
~~R5 represents~~ is

- a hydrogen,
- a linear or branched alkyl group including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms ~~which is~~ optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, hydroxyl groups or amino groups,
- a cycloalkyl group including from 3 to 7 carbon atoms ~~which is~~ optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
- an aryl group including from 6 to 10 carbon atoms ~~which is~~ optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups,
- an aralkyl group including from 7 to 16 carbon atoms ~~which is~~ optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups,

~~R6 represents~~ is

- a linear or branched alkyl group including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms ~~which is~~ optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, hydroxyl groups or amino groups,
- a cycloalkyl group including from 3 to 7 carbon atoms ~~which is~~ optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

- an aryl group including from 6 to 10 carbon atoms ~~which is optionally~~ substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups,
- an aralkyl group including from 7 to 16 carbon atoms ~~which is optionally~~ substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups,
- an aminotriazolium group of formula



~~in which wherein R1, R2, R4 and A have the meaning already indicated,~~

R7 represents is

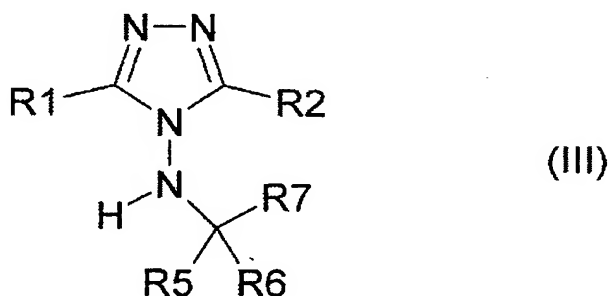
- a hydrogen,
- a linear or branched alkyl group including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms ~~which is~~ optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, hydroxyl groups or amino groups,
- a cycloalkyl group including from 3 to 7 carbon atoms ~~which is optionally~~ substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
- an aryl group including from 6 to 10 carbon atoms ~~which is optionally~~ substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups,
- an aralkyl group including from 7 to 16 carbon atoms ~~which is optionally~~ substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or

linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups,
or

R5 and R6 can form, together with the carbon atom to which they are bonded, a ring comprising 5 to 7 carbon atoms ~~which is optionally substituted by one or more~~ alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

~~it being understood with the proviso~~ that the carbon carrying the R5, R6 and R7 radicals must be asymmetric.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that Claim 3, wherein the compound of formula (II) corresponds to the formula (IIa) defined above in Claim 3 and, in addition, the said compound of formula (IIa) is prepared by reaction of a compound of formula (III):

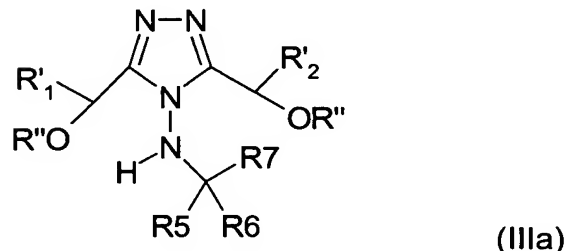


~~in which~~

~~R1, R2, R5, R6 and R7 have the meaning already indicated in Claim 3,~~

with an agent for the quaternization of a nitrogen, to produce the compound of formula (IIa) ~~, which is isolated, if desired, or which is employed directly in the following stage.~~

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 4,~~ characterized in that Claim 3, wherein the compound of formula (II) corresponds to the formula (IIa) defined above in Claim 3 and, in addition, the said compound of formula (IIa) is prepared by reaction of a compound of formula (IIIa):



~~in which wherein~~

~~R5, R6 and R7 have the meaning already indicated in Claim 3,~~

R'1 and R'2 represent are

- a linear or branched alkyl group including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms ~~which is~~ optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
- an aryl group including from 6 to 10 carbon atoms ~~which is~~ optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups, or
- an aralkyl group including from 7 to 16 carbon atoms ~~which is~~ optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups, and

R'' represents

- hydrogen,
- a linear or branched alkyl group including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

- an aryl group including from 6 to 10 carbon atoms ~~which is optionally~~ substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups,
- an aralkyl group including from 7 to 16 carbon atoms ~~which is optionally~~ substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups,
- a $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n\text{R}'''$ group in which n represents an integer ranging from 1 to 4 and R''' is a linear or branched alkyl group including from 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

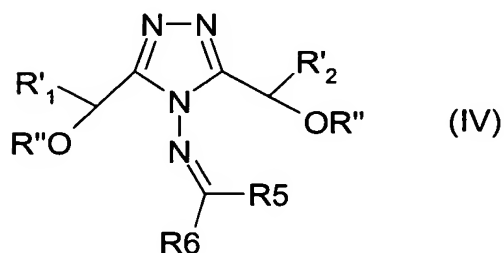
with an agent for the quaternization of a nitrogen, to produce the compound of formula (IIa), ~~which is isolated, if desired, or which is employed directly in the following stage.~~

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the compound of formula (IIIa) is additionally prepared by reaction of an organometallic compound of formula

$\text{R}_7\text{-M}$

~~in which~~ wherein R_7 has the meaning already indicated in Claim 3 and M represents is an MgX or CeX_2 group in which X represents a halogen atom ~~and or~~ or M represents a metal, ~~such as Li, Cu or (1/2) Zn,~~

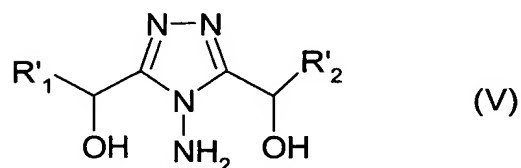
with a compound of formula (IV)



~~in which R'1, R'2 and R" have the meaning already indicated in Claim 4 and R5 and R6 have the meaning already indicated in Claim 3, it being understood with the proviso that, when R" is a hydrogen, at least one of R5 and R6 is an optionally substituted-aryl group optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups,~~

~~to produce the compound of formula (IIIa), which is isolated, if desired, or which is employed directly in the following stage.~~

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the compound of formula (IV) is prepared by etherification and reaction of a compound of formula (V):



~~in which R'1 and R'2 have the meaning already indicated in Claim 4,~~

with a compound of formula



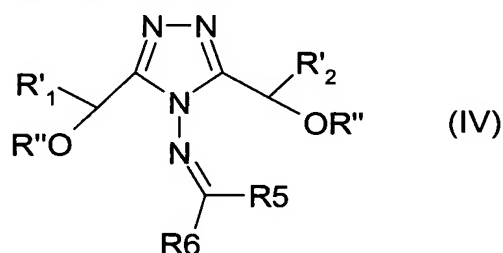
~~in which R5 and R6 have the meaning already indicated in Claim 3,~~

~~to produce the compound of formula (IV), which is isolated, if desired, or which is employed directly in the following stage.~~

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 7, characterized in that wherein the etherification takes place before the reaction of the compound of formula (V) with the compound of formula $O=CR_5R_6$.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 7, characterized in that wherein the etherification takes place after the reaction of the compound of formula (V) with the compound of formula $O=CR_5R_6$, it being understood with the proviso that at least one of R_5 and R_6 represents an optionally substituted-aryl group optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to Claim 5, characterized in that wherein the compound of formula (IIIa) is additionally prepared by reduction by the action of a metal hydride on a compound of formula (IV)



~~defined above in Claim 6~~

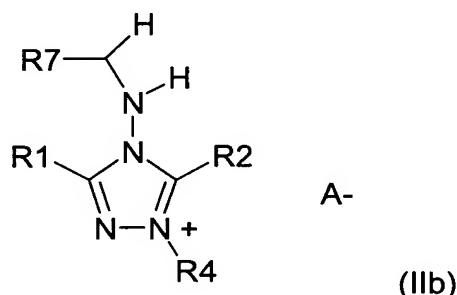
or by hydrogenation of the said compound of formula (IV), it being understood with the proviso that R_5 cannot, ~~in this case, represent~~ be hydrogen.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~As novel intermediates~~ An intermediate for preparing an amine of formula $H_2N-CHR_6R_7$, wherein

R_6 is

- a linear or branched alkyl group including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, hydroxyl groups or amino groups,

- a cycloalkyl group including from 3 to 7 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
- an aryl group including from 6 to 10 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups,
- an aralkyl group including from 7 to 16 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups,
- an aminotriazolium group of formula



wherein R1 and R2, are identical or different, and are

- hydrogen,
- a linear or branched alkyl group including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, -
(OCH₂CH₂O)_nR''' groups wherein n is an integer ranging from 1 to 4 and R''' is a
linear or branched alkyl group including from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, -O-aryl groups
including from 6 to 10 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy
groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, linear or branched alkyl groups including
from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups, or -O-aralkyl groups including from 7 to
16 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from
1 to 6 carbon atoms, linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon
atoms or phenyl groups;

- an aralkyl group including from 7 to 16 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups;
- an aryl group including from 6 to 10 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups,

R4 is

- a linear or branched alkyl group including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted by a -COOH radical or a -COOR''' group in which R''' represents a linear or branched alkyl radical including from 1 to 4 carbon atoms,
- an aralkyl group including from 7 to 16 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a -COOH radical or a -COOR''' group wherein R''' represents a linear or branched alkyl radical including from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or
- a residue of an organic polymer functionalized by an alkylating group, and

A is

- a halogen,
- an alkylsulphonate group including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more halogen groups,
- an arylsulphonate group including from 6 to 10 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more halogen groups or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 4 carbon atoms,
- an alkyl sulphate group including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
- a hydrogen sulphate group,
- a hemisulphate group,
- a perchlorate group, or
- a hydroxide group,

R7 is

- a hydrogen,
- a linear or branched alkyl group including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, hydroxyl groups or amino groups,
- a cycloalkyl group including from 3 to 7 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
- an aryl group including from 6 to 10 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups,
- an aralkyl group including from 7 to 16 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups,

~~the following compounds:~~ wherein the intermediate is selected from the group consisting of:

- 4-[(R)-1-Ethyl-2,2-dimethoxyethylamino]-(S,S)-3,5-bis(1-methoxyethyl)-1,2,4-triazole
- 4-[(S)-1-Ethyl-2,2-dimethoxyethylamino]-(S,S)-3,5-bis(1-ethoxyethyl)-1,2,4-triazole
- 4-[(R)-1-Ethyl-2,2-dimethoxyethylamino]-(S,S)-3,5-bis(1-ethoxyethyl)-1,2,4-triazole
- 4-(1-Phenyl-2,2-dimethoxyethylamino)-(S,S)-3,5-bis(1-methoxyethyl)-1,2,4-triazole
- 4-(1-Ethyl-2,2-dimethoxyethylamino)-(S,S)-3,5-bis(1-(2-methoxyethyl)ethyl)-1,2,4-triazole
- 4-(1-Ethylbutylamino)-(S,S)-3,5-bis(1-methoxyethyl)-1,2,4-triazole
- 4-(1-Ethylisobutylamino)-(S,S)-3,5-bis(1-methoxyethyl)-1,2,4-triazole
- 4-(1-Phenylpropylamino)-(S,S)-3,5-bis(1-methoxyethyl)-1,2,4-triazole
- 4-(1-Phenylethylamino)-(S,S)-3,5-bis(1-methoxyethyl)-1,2,4-triazole, and

- (Hexyl-3,4-diamino)-4,4'-bis[(S,S)-3,5-bis(1-methoxyethyl)-1,2,4-triazole].

12. (Currently Amended) ~~As novel intermediates~~ An intermediate for preparing an amine of formula $H_2N-CR_5R_6R_7$ wherein

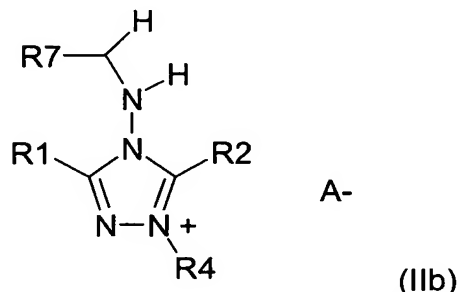
R5 is

- a hydrogen,
- a linear or branched alkyl group including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, hydroxyl groups or amino groups,
- a cycloalkyl group including from 3 to 7 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
- an aryl group including from 6 to 10 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups,
- an aralkyl group including from 7 to 16 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups,

R6 is

- a linear or branched alkyl group including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, hydroxyl groups or amino groups,
- a cycloalkyl group including from 3 to 7 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
- an aryl group including from 6 to 10 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups,

- an aralkyl group including from 7 to 16 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups,
- an aminotriazolium group of formula



wherin R1 and R2, are identical or different, and are

- hydrogen,
- a linear or branched alkyl group including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, - (OCH₂CH₂O)_nR''' groups wherein n is an integer ranging from 1 to 4 and R''' is a linear or branched alkyl group including from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, -O-aryl groups including from 6 to 10 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups, or -O-aralkyl groups including from 7 to 16 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups;
- an aralkyl group including from 7 to 16 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups;
- an aryl group including from 6 to 10 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups,

R4 is

- a linear or branched alkyl group including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted by a -COOH radical or a -COOR''' group in which R''' represents a linear or branched alkyl radical including from 1 to 4 carbon atoms,
- an aralkyl group including from 7 to 16 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a -COOH radical or a -COOR''' group wherein R''' represents a linear or branched alkyl radical including from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or
- a residue of an organic polymer functionalized by an alkylating group, and

A is

- a halogen,
- an alkylsulphonate group including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more halogen groups,
- an arylsulphonate group including from 6 to 10 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more halogen groups or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 4 carbon atoms,
- an alkyl sulphate group including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
- a hydrogen sulphate group,
- a hemisulphate group,
- a perchlorate group, or
- a hydroxide group,

R7 is

- a hydrogen,
- a linear or branched alkyl group including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, hydroxyl groups or amino groups,

- a cycloalkyl group including from 3 to 7 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
- an aryl group including from 6 to 10 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups,
- an aralkyl group including from 7 to 16 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or phenyl groups, or

R5 and R6 can form, together with the carbon atom to which they are bonded, a ring comprising 5 to 7 carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more alkoxy groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms or linear or branched alkyl groups including from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

wherein the intermediate is selected from the group consisting of:

the following compounds:

- N-[(S,S)-3,5-Bis(1-methoxyethyl)-1,2,4-triazol-4-yl]-2,2-dimethoxyethylimine
 - N-[(S,S)-3,5-Bis(1-methoxyethyl)-1,2,4-triazol-4-yl]butylimine
 - N-[(S,S)-3,5-Bis(1-methoxyethyl)-1,2,4-triazol-4-yl]isobutylimine
 - N-[(S,S)-3,5-Bis(1-methoxyethyl)-1,2,4-triazol-4-yl]-1-(ethoxycarbonyl)methylimine
 - N-[(S,S)-3,5-Bis(1-methoxyethyl)-1,2,4-triazol-4-yl]-1-phenylethylimine
 - N-[(S,S)-3,5-Bis(1-methoxyethyl)-1,2,4-triazol-4-yl]-1-methyl-2,2-dimethoxyethylimine
 - Bis[N-[(S,S)-3,5-bis(1-methoxyethyl)-1,2,4-triazol-4-yl]methylimine]
 - N-[(S,S)-3,5-Bis(1-ethoxyethyl)-1,2,4-triazol-4-yl]-2,2-dimethoxyethylimine,
- and
- N-[(S,S)-3,5-Bis(1-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethyl)-1,2,4-triazol-4-yl]-2,2-dimethoxyethylimine.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~one of Claims 4 to 6,~~ characterized in that, in addition, Claim 4, wherein the stereoisomers of formula (III) or (IIIa) are separated by, ~~optionally chiral,~~ high performance liquid chromatography.
14. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~either of Claims 3 and 5,~~ characterized in that, in addition, Claim 3, wherein the diastereoisomers of formula (IIa) are separated by crystallization.
15. (Original) An enantiomerically pure diastereoisomer of a compound of formula (IIa) obtained according to the process of Claim 14.
16. (Currently Amended) ~~Enantiomerically pure~~ The enantiomerically pure diastereoisomer of a compound of formula (IIa) according to Claim 15, wherein the compound of formula (IIa) is 1-benzyl-4-[(R)-1-phenyl-2,2-dimethoxyethylamino]-(S,S)-3,5-bis(1-methoxyethyl)-1,2,4-triazolium bromide according to claim 15.
17. (New) The process according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of isolating the amine of formula (I).
18. (New) The process according to Claim 4, wherein the compound of formula (IIa) is isolated.
19. (New) The process according to Claim 5, wherein the compound of formula (IIa) is isolated.
20. (New) The process according to Claim 6, wherein M is Li, Cu or (1/2) Zn.
21. (New) The process according to Claim 6, wherein the compound of formula (IIIa) is isolated.

22. (New) The process according to Claim 7, wherein the compound of formula (IV) is isolated.
23. (New) The process according to Claim 5, wherein the stereoisomers of formula (IIIa) are separated by high performance liquid chromatography.
24. (New) The process according to Claim 13, wherein the high performance liquid chromatography is chiral high performance liquid chromatography.
25. (New) The process according to Claim 23, wherein the high performance liquid chromatography is chiral high performance liquid chromatography.
26. (New) The process according to Claim 5, wherein the diastereoisomers of formula (IIa) are separated by crystallization.
27. (New) An enantiomerically pure diastereoisomer of a compound of formula (IIa) obtained according to the process of Claim 26.
28. (New) The enantiomerically pure diastereoisomer of a compound of formula (IIa) according to Claim 27, wherein the compound of formula (IIa) is 1-benzyl-4-[(R)-1-phenyl-2,2-dimethoxyethylamino]-(S,S)-3,5-bis(1-methoxyethyl)-1,2,4-triazolium bromide.
29. (New) A primary amine made in accordance with the process of claim 1.